

**GRADE**

**8**

# KENTUCKY

**K-PREP**

Kentucky Performance Rating For Educational Progress



## READING SAMPLE ITEMS

Spring 2013

The following are the general guides that will be used to evaluate your responses to short-answer and extended-response questions in this test.

## Kentucky Short-Answer Questions General Scoring Guide

### Score Point 2

- You complete all components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and/or processes.
- You provide a correct answer using an accurate explanation as support.

### Score Point 1

- You provide a partially correct answer to the question and/or address only a portion of the question.
- You demonstrate a partial understanding of the concepts and/or processes.

### Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

### Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.

# Kentucky Extended-Response Questions

## General Scoring Guide

### Score Point 4

- You complete all important components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate in-depth understanding of the relevant concepts and/or processes.
- Where appropriate, you choose more efficient and/or sophisticated processes.
- Where appropriate, you offer insightful interpretations or extensions (generalizations, applications, analogies).

### Score Point 3

- You complete most important components of the question and communicate clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of major concepts even though you overlook or misunderstand some less-important ideas or details.

### Score Point 2

- You complete some important components of the question and communicate those components clearly.
- You demonstrate that there are gaps in your conceptual understanding.

### Score Point 1

- You show minimal understanding of the question.
- You address only a small portion of the question.

### Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

### Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.

Read this passage about Jim White and his love of the Carlsbad Caverns. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Follow the Bats



- 1 In the 1890s, the people who lived in the area of New Mexico now called Carlsbad knew of the stream of bats that rose from the ground each evening. No one was curious enough nor brave enough to investigate where the bats went during the day until a young cowboy watched in wonder and decided someone should find out. Sixteen when he made the discovery of a lifetime, Jim White devoted the rest of his life to *bringing his discovery to light*. Unfortunately, for over twenty years, his friends and neighbors thought Jim White was either a liar or a fool.
- 2 The Carlsbad Caverns were formed about four million years ago, when the desert was the bottom of a large body of water. After the waters receded, pine forests grew above the caverns. Today, the land above the caves is part of the Chihuahuan Desert, a semiarid ecosystem that is dry in the winters and receives an average of fourteen inches of rain in the summers. The desert lies in Mexico, west Texas, and southern New Mexico and Arizona.
- 3 People now know that Native Americans lived near the caves twelve to fourteen thousand years ago. Since then, explorers have crossed above the caverns unknowingly. The land containing the caves belonged to Spain and Mexico before becoming a territory of the United States. Traders set up posts to serve the cattle drives that thundered over the caves. Ranchers settled on wide sweeps of grazing land and built communities. By 1892, towns were growing along old cattle trails. Settlers came from Texas and farther east looking for land, fortune, or a new life. If anyone explored the caverns, though, they kept it to themselves.
- 4 Jim White and his family moved to Lone Tree, New Mexico, in that same year of 1892. Jim, an active ten-year-old, liked roaming the desert. By the time he was sixteen, he was working as a cowboy. Out on the range one day in 1898, he saw thousands of bats rising



up out of a hole in the ground, and he realized that a massive space would be required to hold them all. His curiosity drove him to try to discover just how big a space it was, and he descended into the magical Carlsbad Caverns. He was stunned by what he found. The stone formations had been in darkness for millions of years, until White's small lantern flame was reflected by the quartz, crystals, and onyx. One beautiful room led to another and then another. He returned time after time, journeying farther from the entrance and carefully marking his paths so that he would not lose his way below ground. Excited about this treasure, he tried to tell others but few believed him.

- 5 Undiscouraged, Jim continued to explore the caves. When a fertilizer company staked a claim to mine the bat droppings from the bat room, Jim became the foreman. Now he was getting paid to explore. Even then, after years of exploring, Jim's stories of a vast, beautiful underground world attracted only a few visitors. Most people still doubted there was anything but darkness and bat droppings down there. Finally, in 1915, Jim convinced a photographer to descend into the caves and take photos. They were in black and white; but even so, the pictures astounded all who saw them. Throughout the next few years, the caves were surveyed and mapped by government geologists who were guided by Jim White. Jim lived to see his beloved caverns designated as a national monument. Today, parts of the caverns are enjoyed by millions of visitors, while at the same time other sections are strictly preserved as untouched ecosystems. Jim White's careful stewardship resulted in a natural wonder that can be shared by all living things.



1

In paragraph 1 of “Follow the Bats,” what does the phrase *bringing his discovery to light* mean?

- A** allowing more bats to escape from the darkness of the cave
- B** making more people aware of the wonders of the cave
- C** finding out where the bats go during the daylight hours
- D** convincing the community that he is perfectly sane

2

Read this sentence from paragraph 3 of “Follow the Bats.”

“If anyone explored the caverns, though, they kept it to themselves.”

How does this sentence fit with how Jim White spent his life?

- A** The sentence contrasts with Jim White’s wish to make all aware of the caves.
- B** The sentence proves that Jim White was not the first individual to discover the caves.
- C** The sentence hints that what Jim White found should remain hidden from the world.
- D** The sentence shows that others shared Jim White’s appreciation of the caves.

3

Which two central ideas are developed in “Follow the Bats”?

- A** Spending time with family is important. / What others think is not important.
- B** Determination can lead to happiness. / Hard work must overtake pleasure.
- C** Curiosity leads to discovery. / Taking risks can lead to success.
- D** Trust must be earned. / Good ideas are often just pipe dreams.

4

What personal quality does the author of “Follow the Bats” use to distinguish Jim White from the rest of his community?

- A** Jim White willingly followed his curiosity.
- B** Jim White worked hard to preserve the cave.
- C** Jim White wanted to keep the cave to himself.
- D** Jim White was unconcerned about what others thought.



*Read these letters from a son to his mother about the Carlsbad Caverns. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Letters from Underground**

1 June 27, 1913

2 My dear Mother,

3 Our newest state is a beautiful place. New Mexico is the perfect place for a young man to make his fortune. I have already found work that suits me down to the ground. Truly, it suits me even farther, for I spend much of my days underground. Do not fear, Mother. It is not very dangerous; although, I must admit it is not as clean as the work I did as a clerk in Grandfather's law office. But the truth is, I am not suited for life in an office. I wanted to see the wide open spaces of the new state of New Mexico, and I have.

4 I am working in the fertilizer business. I work with a cowboy named Jim White. Before I met Jim, I heard an awful lot of gossip about him in town. Most of it was not complimentary. No one accused him of being a bad man, mind you, but people say he is a fool. I remembered what you taught me about judging people for yourself, not by what others say. Your words of wisdom have paid off yet again. He cannot read or write very well, but he is an excellent worker and a man who loves adventure, just as I do. We gather the fertilizer from a cave Jim discovered when he was just a little younger than I am now. It is so valuable that we ship it on the railroad to the citrus farmers in California. There are so many bats that live in the cave that the supply of fertilizer seems endless. When the bats exit the cave each evening, it appears as if a billow of smoke is rising from a forest fire, and the stream of bats seems to go on forever. I must admit that I find it a bit disturbing, although Jim likes bats.

5 Jim claims that he has seen many rooms in the cave, but I have spent most of my time in the large bat room. When he saw I was interested, though, Jim promised to take me along on his prospecting underground. I am anxious for the adventure.

6 I am enclosing a money order in this letter. Please buy yourself something nice and something for my little sisters as well. Please be sure to read this letter to Grandfather and to those two little princesses, Clarice and Louisa. I miss you all very much.

7 Your devoted son,

8 Amos

9 July 18, 1913

10 My dear Mother,

11 In my last letter I told you that Jim had promised to take me with him on an exploration. Yesterday after the last load of fertilizer had been pulled up to the surface, we rode down again in the buckets and lit hand lanterns. Even though today was a scorcher on the surface, it was chilly at the bottom of the drop. Jim led me from the bat room through a space as big as the Grange Hall ballroom and down a long low tunnel. At the end of the tunnel, he stood aside, and holding his lantern high, gestured for me to go first. I stepped into a room that belongs in one of the fairy tales Clarice loves to read. The Snow Queen would take it for her throne room. I can hardly find the words to describe what I saw there. Glittering columns rise from the floor and hang from the ceiling. Marble and crystals clothe every surface. The floor and walls sparkle as if they wear diamonds. Pearly ribbons of stone weave along the path. In the middle is a lake so still that it seems made of glass. If only I had photographic equipment.

12 Jim was gratified by my admiration and wonder. He told me that, over the years, he often tried to spread the word of what he had discovered, but the people on the ranch and in town doubted his honesty. I trusted him and reaped the reward of this sight.

13 Jim wants me to write down all I have seen. He hopes my words will convince the doubters, but *I am of two minds*. It is so beautiful that I feel we should share it, but I fear that too many visitors will destroy it. I must think carefully what would be the best thing to do.

14 Jim tells me that there are more tunnels and more rooms. I look forward to the other wonders we will find.

15 Your devoted son,

16 Amos





5

In paragraph 13 of “Letters from Underground,” what does Amos mean when he tells his mother *I am of two minds*?

- A** He admires the beauty of the caves but dislikes the bat waste.
- B** He sometimes thinks Jim is a fool and other times he thinks Jim is brilliant.
- C** He is torn between keeping the caves secret and making the public aware of them.
- D** He is torn between wanting to go home and wanting to remain at the caves with Jim.



6

From reading “Letters from Underground,” describe the differences between Amos and Jim White as he is described in Amos’s letters. Use details from the passage to support your explanation.

Rubric	
Score	Description
2	The student describes differences between Amos and Jim White based on the letters Amos writes to his mother. The description uses details from the passage to support these differences.
1	The student describes a single difference perceived between Amos and Jim White, but uses no details from the passage to support the description.
0	The student’s response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE

1. There are many differences between Amos and Jim White such as... Amos is not very fond of the bats but, on the other hand, Jim likes the bats. "When the bats exit the cave each evening, it appears as if a billow of smoke is rising from a forest fire, and the stream of bats seem to go on forever. I must admit I find it disturbing, although Jim likes bats." Another difference is that Jim wants to share the beauty of the cave, but Amos isn't sure. "Jim wants me to write down all I have seen. He hopes my words will convince the doubters, but I am of two minds." These are just some of the of the differences.

### ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE

The student describes differences between Amos and Jim White based on the letters Amos writes to his mother (*Amos is not very fond of the bats but on the other hand, Jim likes the bats; Jim wants to share the beauty of the cave, but Amos isn't sure*). The description includes details from the passage that support these differences (*'When the bats exit the cave each evening, it appears as if a billow of smoke is rising from a forest fire'.... 'I must admit that I find it a bit disturbing'; 'Jim wants me to write down all I have seen. He hopes my words will convince the doubters, but I am of two minds'*).

**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE**

1. *Amos and Jim White are different by, Amos was disturbed by the bats and Jim White liked the bats.*

**ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE**

The student describes a single perceived difference between Amos and Jim White (*Amos was disturbed by the bats and Jim White liked the bats*) but does not use details from the passage to support the description.

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

1. People think Jim is wild and dishonest. They did not believe that he found a cave of diamonds.

### ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE

The student's response is irrelevant (*People think Jim is wild and dishonest. They did not believe he found a cave*). The student does not describe the differences between Amos and Jim White.



7

Based on what you learn about both men from the letters and the passage, explain how their reactions to and appreciation of the caves conflict. Use details from both the letters and the passage to support your explanation.

Rubric	
Score	Description
4	The student thoroughly explains how the reactions to and appreciation of the caves of both Amos and Jim conflict using relevant details from both the letters and the passage to support the explanation.
3	The student explains the reactions to and appreciation of both Jim and Amos, but only generally states that they have a different interpretation. Details from both the letters and the passage are used to support the explanation.
2	The student focuses only on describing the reactions to and appreciation of one of the men, with only a brief mention of the other. Minimal details are used to support this description.
1	The student makes a general description of the caves without attributing any reaction or interpretation to either of the men.
0	The student's response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 4-POINT RESPONSE

2. The Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico are a "natural wonder" today. When first discovered, few people got the chance to explore their beauty. Of these few were Amos—a worker in the caves—and Jim White—the actual founder. Both saw the same land form, but both had very different reactions.

Jim White discovered the remarkable caves at age sixteen. "He was stunned" states Follow the Bats. He journeyed all throughout the system, going farther and farther each day. He was so "excited about this treasure" that he want all others to know about it. It seems that he wanted recognition and fame for his discovery. He loved the bats and was amazed by all the rock and formations, but he seemed to care more about getting others to see it. This goes to show that Jim's amazing discovery led him to want fame.

On the other hand, there was Amos. Amos, too, was fascinated by the natural landmark. He filled with "admiration and wonder". In contrast to Jim, Amos cares more about preserving the cave's great tunnels. He does not exactly want to share it with the world in "fear that too many visitors will destroy it." He is more interested in the different things to explore down in them, not the credit to come with them. Not curious about the bats or fame, Amos is modest and wants to help keep the beauty alive.

All in all, both men were astounded by the same discovery, but had different ideas about it. Jim was more interested in money and making something of them while Amos was intrigued by the natural features.

#### ANNOTATION — 4-POINT RESPONSE

The student thoroughly explains how the men's reactions to and appreciation of the caves conflict (*Jim's amazing discovery led him to want fame.... while Amos was intrigued by the natural features*). The student uses relevant details from both the letters and the passage to support the explanation (*Jim White.... was so 'excited about this treasure' that he want all others to know about it.... he wanted recognition and fame for his discovery. He loved the bats and was amazed by all the rock and formations, but he seemed to care more about getting others to see it; In contrast to Jim, Amos cares more about preserving the cave's great tunnels.... 'fear that too many visitors will destroy it.'* He is more interested in the different things to explore down in them, not the credit to come with them. Not curious about the bats or fame, Amos is modest and wants to keep the beauty alive).



**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 3-POINT RESPONSE**

2. As expressed in section 4 of the passage, Jim attempted to share his discovery with the world.

Amos, however, seems to have a greater appreciation for the cavern and, because of this, is hesitant about telling the world about the caverns. This is shown in the second letter, in section 13. Amos seems very concerned in the consequences of making the discovery of the caves public knowledge. He is afraid, as stated in the second letter, also section 13, that too many visitors will destroy the cavern. Amos puts the protection of the cave first, while Jim seems only concerned with sharing what he has found, despite the possibly destructive consequences that may follow. It is clear that Amos has a far greater appreciation to the sheer beauty of the caverns.

### ANNOTATION — 3-POINT RESPONSE

The student explains how the men's reactions to and appreciation of the caves conflict (*Jim attempted to share his discovery.... Amos, however, seems to have a greater appreciation for the cavern and...is hesitant about telling the world about the caverns....has a far greater appreciation to the sheer beauty of the caverns*) but only generally states that they have a different interpretation. Details from both the letters and the passage are used to support the explanation (*Amos seems very concerned...making the discovery of the cave public knowledge.... that too many visitors will destroy the cavern. Amos puts the protection of the cave first, while Jim seems only concerned with sharing what he found, despite the possibly destructive consequences*).

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE

2. To begin with Jem White found the cave on his own. No one showed him the cave. Jem's curiosity and how much he loves bats and adventure discover the cave. Jem White devoted his life to trying to figure out where the bats lived and where they came from. But Amos did not discover the caves like Jem did. Jem White showed the caves to Amos. Amos did not have to devote his life to anything to see the caves. Unlike Jem White.

In Addition when Jem White discover the cave and was amazed by what he was seeing he kept exploring and kept finding more and more rooms. And kept going back everyday and just enjoying it.

**ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE**

The student uses minimal details to describe Jim White's reaction to and appreciation of the caves (*found the cave on his own.... curiosity and how much he loves bats and adventure.... devoted his life to trying to figure out where the bats lived and where they came from.... was amazed by what he was seeing he kept exploring and kept finding more and more rooms*) with only a brief mention of Amos (*did not have to devote his life to anything to see the caves*).

**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE**

2. Jim and Amose White went into the cavern and they saw just how many bats were in there. And that there was quartz, crystals, and onyx on the walls and on the roof of the cave.

#### ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE

The student provides a general description of the caves (*how many bats were in there. And that there was quartz, crystals, and onyx on the walls and on the roof of the cave*) without attributing any reaction or interpretation to either of the men.

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

2.

In both of the passages Jim White  
have different reactions toward the caves.

**ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE**

The student's response is totally irrelevant (*In both of the passages Jim White have different reactions toward the cave*). The student does not explain how Jim White's reaction to the caves conflicts with Amos' reaction.





## Item Information

Question Number	Key	DOK*	KCAS Primary Standard**
1	B	2	L.8.5a
2	A	2	RI.8.5
3	C	2	RI.8.2
4	A	2	RI.8.3
5	C	2	L.8.4a
6	NA	3	RL.8.3
7	NA	3	RI.8.9

\*DOK is the abbreviation for Depth of Knowledge. Please note that DOK is associated to the complexity level of an assessment item and is not aligned to the standard. Further information regarding DOK can be accessed on the Kentucky Department of Education Web site: <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/Pages/Content-Specific-Core-Content-for-Assessment-DOK-Support-Materials.aspx>

\*\*Further information regarding Common Core Standards can be accessed on the Common Core Web site: <http://www.corestandards.org>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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